

REMARKS

Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 135(b), applicants advise that new claims 20 to 34 have been copied from claims 1, 2, 5-11, 14, 16-19, and 21 as published in Fischer, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2006/0070240 (published on April 6, 2006), Serial No. 11/244,093, filed on October 5, 2005, and claiming priority to 60/616,342, filed on October 5, 2004. In addition, new claims 35-42 cover the same invention as covered by new claims 20-27, but use terms that are expressly supported in the present application. Similarly, new claims 43-45 cover the same invention as new claims 28-30, and new claims 46-49 cover the same invention as new claims 31-34. Thus, claims 20-49 are now pending.

New independent claims 20, 28, 31, 35, 43, and 46 are supported in the present application as follows. The application clearly describes a guard, e.g., at paragraph 0004, and notes a razor cartridge, e.g., at 0007. The application refers to a skin engaging structure, e.g., at 0002; and a shows a plurality of curved valleys between guard fins, e.g., in FIGs. 2 and 6, and as discussed at, e.g., 0007. The application notes that the guard fins, and thus the curved valleys between them, are configured to grip the skin, e.g., at 0009, during shaving in a direction forward of a razor blade, e.g., at 0004, and grip the skin more at the sides of the razor blade than in the middle, see, e.g., 0009, 0010, and 0018, prior to the skin contacting the razor blade.

The dependent claims are similarly supported. For example, the curved fins and their corresponding valleys are curved back towards opposing ends of the razor cartridge as shown in FIG. 2. The curved fins and their valleys also have varying radii as shown in FIG. 2. The fact that the curved fins and their valleys are made of elastomeric materials is discussed in the application, e.g., at 0005. The fact that the curved valleys are in two sets of pluralities positioned equidistantly from the middle of the guard is clear from FIG. 2. Thus, the new claims add no new matter.

Applicants submit that the new claims cover generally the same inventions as covered by originally filed claims 1 to 19, but emphasize the curved valleys formed between the curved guard fins recited in the originally filed claims.

Applicants appreciate the time and courtesy extended by Examiner Hamilton during a telephone interview on January 16, 2007 with applicant's representative J. Peter Fasse. Applicant's representative discussed the new copied claims, and the patentability of the new claims over the presently cited prior art.

35 USC § 102

The Office has rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 10, 11, 15, 17, and 18 as allegedly anticipated by Aviza, U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2005/0126007. Applicants submit that in view of the cancellation of these claims this rejection is moot, and that Aviza does not anticipate new claims 20-49.

In particular, Aviza does not disclose a plurality of curved valleys between curved guard fins (or arcuate channels) formed on the skin engaging structure of a razor guard. Nor does Aviza discuss or illustrate that such curved valleys are configured to grip the skin during shaving in a direction forward of a razor blade and grip the skin more at the sides of the razor blade than in the middle prior to the skin contacting the razor blade (or pre-stretch the skin in a direction forward of a razor blade and towards opposing ends of the razor blade). These features are found in all of new claims 20-49. Thus, Aviza does not anticipate these claims.

35 USC § 103

The Office has rejected claims 8 to 12 as allegedly obvious over Aviza in view of Gilder, U.S. Patent No. 6,298,557 ("Gilder"), and claim 16 as allegedly obvious over Aviza in view of Santhagens Van Eibergen et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,671,961 ("Eibergen"). Applicants submit that in view of the cancellation of these claims this rejection is moot, and that Aviza in view of the secondary references does not render any of new claims 20-49 obvious.

In particular, none of the cited references disclose or illustrate the use of curved valleys (or arcuate channels) configured to grip the skin during shaving in a direction forward of a razor blade and grip the skin more at the sides of the razor blade than in the middle prior to the skin

contacting the razor blade (or to pre-stretch the skin in a direction forward of a razor blade and towards opposing ends of the razor blade). These features are found in all of new claims 20-49.

For example, Gilder shows all of his concave projections arranged across the entire skin engaging member. Thus, Gilder's projections cannot grip the skin more at the sides of the razor blade than in the middle prior to the skin contacting the razor blade. The same is true for Eibergen's skin-supporting members and surfaces. Thus, Aviza in view of either Gilder or Eibergen fails to render these new claims obvious.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5-7, 13, and 14, and applicants will pursue those claims, along with the rest of claims 1-19 in a continuation application.

CONCLUSION

Please apply the \$1,100 for excess claim fees and the \$120 for Petition for Extension of Time fee for a one-month extension and any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 00216-620001.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 23, 2007

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